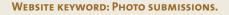
BRIEFING



NGTON « BLOOMINGTON » BLOO

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT SUBMIT YOUR BLOOMINGTON PHOTOS

e want your best photos! Help us tell Bloomington's story through your images of Bloomington events, landmarks, businesses, people, nature and more. We'd especially like photos illustrating our rich history and special events. The photos you submit may be used on the City's website, social media pages and in various City publications. Contribute photos by visiting the City's website and clicking on the submit photos icon. For more information, contact Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819, jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us, or visit our website.





COUNCIL AGAIN LOWERS PROPERTY TAX LEVY

MAKING BLOOMINGTON EVEN MORE SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE

n September, the City Council set the preliminary total property tax dollar levy for 2012 at \$44,441,371. The maximum 2012 levy is a decrease from 2011, which in turn was a decrease from 2010. The City strives to be more sustainable, not only environmentally, but also economically and financially. To maintain excellent services, the City continues to budget efficiently and plan for the future while being cost effective.

IMPACT ON HOMES

Bloomington reduced its total
City levy despite state changes in
Market Value Homestead Credit and
relative values between residential
and commercial properties. The City
Council's objective is to hold the median
value home's 2012 property taxes for City
services at \$67.82 per month, the same
amount as in 2010 and 2011, with the
average value home seeing a 1.45 percent
decrease for 2012. See chart above right.

SUPPORTING YOUR INVESTMENT

The preliminary levy sustains
Public Safety, Planning, Prevention and
Maintenance, and Quality of Life services
key to building and renewal, that along
with public infrastructure investments
support your home and business
investment over the long term.

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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON 1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027 ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



2012 Median value home - \$207,300; 2012 Average value home - \$235,500.

The final City property tax levy for 2012 will be set in December. While the preliminary levy is a cap that cannot be exceeded when setting the final levy, the City Council will continue to look at ways to decrease the levy.

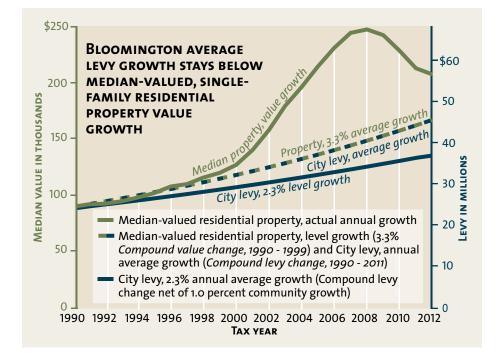
VALUES AND YOUR PROPERTY TAX

During this economic downturn, a question often heard is, "When home values have declined, why don't property taxes also decline?" While there may not be a simple answer, a good place to start is with an illustration. The graph, below, shows single-family residential property values over the past 20 years. During the 1990s, market values, as reflected in the median-valued home, averaged about 3.3 percent annual growth. Beginning in 2000, many shifted their investments to residential real estate, which resulted in

a housing market bubble. If there had not been a bubble and home market values had increased at the same rate as in the 1990s, home values still would not have appreciated to their current level even given the decline of the past few years.

Over the past 20 years, the City's overall property tax levy increased, on average, at a rate that parallels home price increases in the 1990s. The City's overall property tax levy, when adjusted for actual community growth, increased at about two-thirds the home value appreciation rate. In other words, the City did not increase its property taxes during the past decade at anywhere near the rate that market values of homes increased. At the same time, service quality increased along with significant investments in the City's infrastructure.

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When you see Website Keywords, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1947 FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSES



This year's open houses take place on Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at all fire stations. Highlights include car seat inspections and air bag demonstrations at Station 1 and Bomb Squad and Canine Unit demonstrations at Station 4. All stations will offer a coloring contest and treats for kids, smoke detector raffle and meet-and-greet session with Sparky the Fire Dog.

Fire Station open house locations:

Station 1: 10 West 95th Street

Station 4: 4201 West 84th Street

Station 2: 10601 Xerxes Avenue South

Station 5: 10540 Bush Lake Road

Station 3: 2050 East 86th Street **Station 6:** 8601 Lakeview Road

For more information, contact the

Fire Department at 952-563-4801.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION

WEEK.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL



This summer's National Night
Out Neighborhood Watch
Program hosted 328 parties. Nearly
65 Bloomington Police Department
officers and staff, including police
reserves and explorers, participated in
the event. In addition, representatives
from the Bloomington Fire Department
and Allina ambulances attended many
parties with their vehicles.

For more information, call Crime Prevention Coordinator Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 2011